

Atty Dkt No.: 1998P07977US03

Serial No.: 09/218,783

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

one or more call group locations associated with different ones of said one or more servers;

an invite request unit to invoke the group pickup system;

a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to a group pickup destination to enable a caller station to be picked up from said destination, said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations and selected responsive to one of an alerting group member location and a responding group member location; and

a retrieval request unit to connect a call pickup station with said caller station;

wherein a call group associated with said call pickup station can have members associated with different ones of said one or more call group locations.

2. (original) The system as recited in claim 1 further including an exception handler adapted to handle failures in the group pickup system.

3. (original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said call pickup party may be located on any server within the network.

4. (original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said parked caller may be picked up from any server within the network.

5. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include excessive network congestion.

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6. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include a vacant number.

7. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include no route to destination.

8. (original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said user selectable park location is said destination's background task.

9. (currently amended) A method for picking up a call in a group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

invoking the group pickup system;

establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations associated with any of a plurality of said one or more servers located anywhere within the network; and

connecting a call pickup party with said parked caller, said call pickup party being connected at another one of said one or more group locations ~~defining a group member~~;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 9, further including the step of handling failures in the group pickup system.

11. (original) The method as recited in claim 9, further including the step of picking up a caller from anywhere within the network.

12. (currently amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

means for invoking the group pickup system;

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means responsive to said invoking means for establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations associated with any of a plurality of said one or more servers located anywhere within the network; and

means for connecting a call pickup party with said parked caller, said call pickup party being connected at another one of said one or more group locations ~~defining a group member~~;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

13. (original) The system as recited in claim 12 further including means for handling failures in the group pickup system.

14. (original) The system as recited in claim 12, further including means for picking up a parked caller from anywhere within the network.

15. (currently amended) A system for enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

a request unit to enable operation of the group pickup system when there is an unanswered call at a member station;

a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote group member stations associated with different servers within the network which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and

a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station, wherein the calling station and selected call pickup station may be associated with different servers and define member stations.

16. (currently amended) A system according to claim 15, in which the request unit comprises:

an automatic mode unit that automatically searches for a group member station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call, and selectively designates an identified group member station as said selected call member station; and

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a manual mode unit that is initiated by a group member who is aware of an unanswered call at another station and searches for an alerting group member station, wherein said manual mode unit designates an identified said alerting group member station as said selected call member station.

17. (previously presented) A system according to claim 15 further comprising a remote search unit to search for a remote group member that is alerting or available preferably using a temporary signaling connection.

18. (currently amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein the remote search unit sends [[send]] a facility request to search all the group member stations at a remote location.

19. (previously presented) A system according to claim 15, further comprising a queue/dequeue unit for selecting a group member from a database.

20. (previously presented) A system according to claim 15, further comprising means for assessing whether an available/alerting group member station fulfills set criteria before final selection thereof.

21. (previously presented) A system according to claim 15, further comprising a release links unit to release any temporary links used in establishing the connection and/or convert them to a bearer service cell.

22. (currently amended) A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a member station anywhere on the network;

making local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and

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[[and]] establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station, wherein call pickup stations and unanswered stations are associated with a same group and different servers.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22 further including the step of automatically searching for a group member station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22 further including the step of searching for an alerting group member station triggered by a group member who is aware of an unanswered call at another station.

25. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22 further including the step of handling failures in the group pickup system.

26. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22 further including the step of picking up a call from anywhere within the network.

27. (previously presented) A telecommunications system, comprising:

a plurality of servers;

a plurality of telephone devices associated with said plurality of servers; and

a group pickup system including at least one group pickup group comprising a predetermined number of said plurality of telephony devices associated with different ones of said plurality of servers and which allows call pickup of any call to a group member by any group member station connected to any of said plurality of servers.